

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 and CANCEL claims 4 and 7-9 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A roller bearing assembly comprising:  
at least one raceway member prepared from a steel plate; and  
a plurality of rollers,  
wherein the raceway member is an outer race having its opposite ends formed with annular collars,  
a raceway surface of the outer race and an inner surface of one of the annular collars are subjected to induction hardening and tempering,  
an inner surface of the other annular collar is left as ~~raw~~unhardened steel so as to be formed by bending ~~and is also left as unhardened steel thereafter~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The roller bearing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the raceway surface of the outer race and the inner surface of the one annular collar have a hardness not lower than HV 653, and  
the inner surface of the other annular collar has a hardness not higher than HV 300.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The roller bearing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the raceway surface of the raceway member has an effective hardened layer depth in which the induction hardening is performed, said depth of the hardened layer being so chosen as to be smaller than the plate thickness of the raceway member.

6. (Previously Presented) The roller bearing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

raceway member is prepared from the steel plate containing carbon in a quantity not lower than 0.4%.

7-9. (Cancelled)